

Petition P3-0003, filed on behalf of Oregon salmon fishermen.

Background:

On September 15, 2003, the Federal Register published notice that Salmon for All, Astoria, Oregon, had filed a petition for trade adjustment assistance on behalf of salmon fishermen in Oregon. Also named as a petitioner was the Columbia River Fisherman's Protective Union.

The petitioners identified their commodity as Chinook and Coho salmon, two species of Pacific salmon. For the purposes of TAA, the two species of salmon were considered as a single commodity, i.e. Pacific salmon.

The petitioners indicated that the marketing year impacted by imports of farmed salmon was January-December 2002. The 5-year base period used for the purpose of a price comparison was 1997-2001.

They identified the impacted area as the state of Oregon and the Columbia River. Under the TAA rule, 7 CFR part 1580, an impacted area means one or more States of the United States. Therefore, the Columbia River did not qualify as an impacted area for separate consideration.

Analysis:

USDA evaluated official prices for salmon compiled by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Based on this data, USDA found that in 2002, Oregon fishermen received a weighted-average price of \$1.54 per pound for Chinook and Coho salmon. The average price for 1997-2001 was \$1.75 per pound. The 2002 price was 88 percent of the 5-year average, indicating a decline of 12 percent from the base period.

The petitioners supplied average price data for Coho salmon landed in Alaska that was prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. USDA analysts regarded this data as irrelevant for the purposes of evaluating the merits of TAA for Oregon salmon fishermen.

Reason for denial of petition:

To qualify for TAA, the producer price of a commodity must decline by more than 20 percent from the average for the base period. Consequently, the petition was denied, and notice was published in the Federal Register on October 28, 2003.